THE

# Lawyers Addreſs.

With ſome

# Political Propoſals.

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# THE PREFACE.

*THE Author is very sensible, how many of those Learned Societies are better Qualified for an Attempt of this Nature; and very submissively asks their Pardon, for presuming to make them Father a Paper so unworthy the Grand Title that it bears. He acknowledges his Insufficiency to raise his Idea's answerable to the Dignity*

*of*

# The PREFACE.

*f the Subject, or his Expressions to the ofty and Elegant Langage of our Barr- rators. However, if his honest Intentions en be any way Serviceable to that Pro- ssion, 'twill be a Satisfaction to him who their Well-wisher and Humble Ser- ant.*

THE

PREFACE.

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THE.

# THE Lawyers Addreſs

## With ſome Political Propoſals.

*The following* Addreſs *is propoſed to be Preſented to Her Majeſty by the Honourable Members of the* Inns of Court.

*May it Pleaſe Your Majeſty,*

WE Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Judges, Sergeants, Treaſurers, Benchers, Barriſters, and Students of Your ſeveral *Inns of Courts*, do beg leave to Congratulate Your Majeſty for the

Succeſs of Your Royal Arms under Great *Marlborough* on the *Danube*, under Sir *George* at *Gibralter*, and for Your Own moſt Gracious Favour and Protection at Home of all Your good Proteſtant Subjects; and conſequently for the Probable Confuſion and Extirpation of Rebel Jacobites, Antichriſtian Papiſts, and Enthuſiaſtical Republicans. And as we are more particularly obliged, our *Engliſh* Laws and Religion being inſeparable from each other, we preſume moſt humbly to offer up our moſt hearty Thanks and Acknowledgments for Your Royal Bounty and Benevolence to Your Reverend Clergy; a Gift that will perpetuate Your moſt Glorious Memory, and ſo far Prop and Support Your lawfully Eſtabliſhed Church of *England*, that neither *Turk* nor *Jew*, neither *Occaſionaliſt* nor *Atheiſt*, neither *Pope* nor *Devil* ſhall ever be able to Undermine or Deſtroy it. As for our Parts, we aſſure Your Majeſty that we will uſe our utmoſt Endeavours to put in Execution thoſe good Laws which we profeſs to Study; whereon the Happineſs of Your Kingdom, and Security of Your Royal Perſon, with reſpect to ſecond Cauſes, has its chief Dependance: And our Enjoyment of them depends on Your Good ſelf, Madam, who have Exemplified Your Self to us Your Children and Subjects, a Queen and

Nurſing-

Nurſing-Mother, to Your Enemies a Preſerver of Your Imperial Crown and Dignity, ſtriking Terror into their Hearts, ſetting up *Engliſh* Standards in their Territories, taking their Nobles Captive, and with Revenge both Juſt and Neceſſary dividing the Treaſures of their Principalities: And all this being far from the leaſt Tincture of Ambition, You attribute to Your only Superior God, the King of Kings, whoſe Gracious Providence has ſo Miraculouſly Seated You on the Throne of Your Great Anceſtors. That it may long preſerve Your Life, that the Rays of Your Goodneſs may ſtill increaſe the Luſtre of this Nation, is our moſt Earneſt and Daily Prayer -----

We hope, Moſt Gracious Majeſty, you'll Pardon our want of Words to expreſs the Real Fervency of our Dutiful Affection to Your Majeſty: However, that the World may be convinced of the Sincerity of theſe Aſſurances, we humbly Offer, Dread Sovereign, to Your Conſideration theſe following Particulars, the beſt, and moſt proper Gift that we are capable of Preſenting, and which we conceive, (but with Submiſſion to higher Patriots,) may be very ſerviceable and highly conducive to the Publick Wellfare, had they the Force of, and were Enacted into Laws, *viz.*

Let

Let the Tax on Births, Burials and Marriages be diſcontinued, and be laid more ſenſibly on Batchelours, and Single Women; and let all be Reputed as ſuch that are paſt the Age of Twenty-five Years in Men, and Twenty-one in Women, and can't produce a Certificate of their being lawfully Marry'd. And let all Widows and Widowers be Conſtrued within the Act, unleſs they have living a Child or Grand-Child. For if they are Young, then they ought to remarry; if too Old, they are the fitter to pay the Tax, having no Child to to provide for at their Deaths.

The *Romans*, who took the beſt Methods for enlarging their Republick to a prodigeous Empire, had always a particular Regard for the Marriage State, and as great a Diſreſpect for Celebacy; they beſtowed ſeveral Valuable and Honorary Rewards on the Firſt, and inflicted many pecuniary and incapacitating Puniſhments on the Latter; wiſely conſidering that Number of Inhabitants is the Sinews of a Nation, which by this Means they Politickly Encreaſed; and without doubt occaſioned the ſwallowing many a bitter Pill of Wedlock by theſe Gilded Encouragments. Their Famous *Jus trium Liberorum* had never been Conſtituted, had not the Legiſlatory been ſenſible of the too heavy weight of

a Marriage Burthen, without ſome extraordinary Aſſiſtance, ſome alleviating Cordial, Compoſed of Publick Priviledges and Promotions, to keep up the Spirit of its Bearer, and Paint his Condition in moſt pleaſant and delightful Colours, to attract the Injudicious and Unthinking Multitude to its Bait. Then as for thoſe that avoid this Snare, I think their Pockets ought to compenſate for their Liberty, eſpecially ſince they partake of the Benefits ariſing from Matrimony, without undergoing the multiplicity of Cares and Troubles that attend it. And ſo great Occaſion is there, almoſt neceſſity at preſent, to follow this Ancient *Roman* Policy, that ſeveral Towns in *England* are ſcarce to be diſtinguiſhed from Nunneries, ſo many are their unmarried Females.

*O Frigidiſſima Inſula ubi friget Venus !*
*Fœliciſſima tamen cui Ceres & Bacchus ſine Venere.*

One Encouragement may be, that no Married Man be conſtrained to ſtand as Sheriff, (ſave in the City of *London*) or in the like Burthenſome or Expenſive Offices.

If any Burglar will, before he's apprehended, diſcover another Burglar, let him be Pardoned, and for each above one let him have Ten Pounds Reward.

Let there be laid on the *Jews* in *London*, (it being abominable to give them the Priviledges of Chriſtians, who are their profeſſed Adverſaries) a Tax of 300007. *Pr. Annum*, which would ſcarce be felt among them all, being ſo Rich and Numerous.

Let the Quakers be obliged to Kiſs the Book, or pay a Guinea extraordinary for each Oath taken their way: We ſhould root out theſe Snakes in the Graſs.

Let none be admitted Captain of a Man of War till he has actually ſerved Four Years, nor Lieutenant till Three Years in Her Majeſties Navy.

Let the Paper Act be diſcontinued, which falls ſo heavy a Burthen upon Gentlemen in particular, in Leaſing, Conveyancing, in Setling, Letting, Paſſing Fines, Recoveries, *&c.* of their Lands, and makes Law-Suits (which ought to be carried on with as little Expence as poſſibly can be contrived) ſo vaſtly Chargeable on account of the Double Stamps, that a Man of ordinary Circumſtances is Incapacitated from recovering his Right. Whereas before this Act Cauſes were try'd with near half the Charge, and Eſpecially in the Court of Chancery; a Conveniency then of the greateſt Eaſe and Advantage to the Common Sort of People, and

now

now of inconceivable Hardſhip to them. For now Power has an Opportunity to overballance Juſtice, and he that can command the largeſt Purſe may be ſure in Effect to have the beſt Title; not that our Judges are in the leaſt Faulty, being as Learned and Impartial as ever were ſeated on the Bench; but that the Stamps heighten ſo much the Attorney's Bill in the Court of Equity, that 'tis Prudence very often rather to releaſe one's Right, than to be at the Charge and Trouble of gaining it. And does not this in a great Meaſure quite deface the Beauty and Excellency of our Laws? Which were certainly Eſtabliſhed that every one might enjoy and poſſeſs his own, and not be conſtrained, as at preſent, to Expend 500 *l.* for the Recovery of 200 *l.*

Let all Perſons deprived of any Place or Office of Profit, for any Miſdemeanour, be thereby uncapable for ever after of enjoying the ſame, or any other Place or Office whatſoever.

FINIS.